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Period D English

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Monster Essay

Victor Frankenstein is another character from the novel that has been cast out from society. It is as a result of Victor’s actions that he becomes an outcast. Unlike the monster, Victor has no physical deformation. He is just like everyone else from a looks standpoint. Frankenstein is different from the general population because of his thirst for knowledge and his love for science. Victor isolates himself from society with the actual creation of the monster. Victor spends months researching and completing his experiment. Victor has no friends at Ingolstadt and the only acquaintances that are mentioned are the two professors, Krempe and Waldman. Victor does not have many friends as he is a reserved person. His closest and only mentioned companion growing up (who doesn’t live in his home) is Henry Clerval. Frankenstein then befriends Walton on the ship shortly before his death, and seems surprised by Walton’s friendship and interest in him. After creating the monster, Victor is constantly tormented by what he has done. Every waking second is consumed with thoughts of the monster, even more so after the murder of William and the conviction of Justine. After William is killed, and Victor decides that the monster was the killer, Victor is in a constant state of guilt and intense anger. Victor feels that it was he that was responsible for the deaths of Justine and William, as he was the one who created the murderer. After denying the monster’s request for a companion, Victor dedicates the rest of his life to tracking down and killing the monster. Victor wishes to eradicate his problem and the only way he sees fit is to kill the creature. Following Elizabeth’s murder, Victor pursues the creature in an animal like fashion. He follows the monster’s trail wishing to engage it in mortal combat. This only further separates Victor from society as he has no contact with the outside world during this time. At no point in the story is Victor ever free from his burden (save from the beginning in which he was engrossed in experimentation) and thus he has no time for social interaction. The only love Victor ever experiences apart from the love for his parents and biological siblings is for Elizabeth. Even though there is no blood relationship between Elizabeth and Victor, they are as close as and grew up as, brother and sister. Victor did not have to find love in the “normal” way which would entail more interaction with others in society. His love lived in his home from a very young age.

Victor is lonely for much of his life, similar to the monster. Victor has very few relationships and almost none if his relationships with his family are excluded. The monster has very little interaction with people at all, let alone actual relationships. Every time the monster attempts to form a relationship with a human, he is shunned and beaten. The monsters own creator is no better than the people in society as he himself wants nothing to do with him. They are also similar in that they blame each other for their problems. Victor feels that the monster is the root of all evil and that he is to blame for all of Victor’s misfortunes. The monster feels that Victor unfairly created him grossly different than everyone else and that he is to blame for the monster’s loneliness. The terms “abhorred creature” and “wretched fiend” are used several times by Victor in regard to the monster and the monster often uses terms such as “accursed creator” to describe Victor. They are similar in that they hate one another. Both Victor and the monster have an unquenchable lust for knowledge. The monster yearns to read and write and communicate, and Victor wishes to be a great and respected scientist who makes groundbreaking discoveries. Both Victor and the monster struggle with their place and role in society as well. In the monster’s recalling of his early days to Victor he says, “I had never yet seen a being resembling me, or who claimed any intercourse with me. What was I?” The monster struggles with his appearance and the fact that he is different all throughout the novel. He cannot fathom the cruelty of man towards him as he was born in that state and had no control over his appearance. This is why he then in turn blames Victor. Victor struggles with being too knowledgeable and lonely. Victor had at first celebrated the idea of assuming the role of God. After his creation however, Victor became regretful and guilty. In the beginning of the novel, Victor has a sense of pretentiousness. In his groundbreaking endeavor, he sees himself as better than the average person. After his creation, he sees himself as the slime of the Earth and among the most wicked of men. He degrades himself to a murderer and someone not fit to be among the rest of society. Victor struggles with his place in society as he is at first better than the average person, and then much worse. The monster and Victor are both outcast characters who share many qualities, while also being vastly different.